

Message Text

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ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 PPTE-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6948

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEPT PASS TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CT, PFOR, APER

SUBJECT: CAR VISA REQUIREMENT FOR AMCITS

REF: BANGUI 0299

ON FEBRUARY 13, 1976 THE CAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REINSTITUTED THE VISA REQUIREMENT FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS VISITING OR RESIDING IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. THE AGENT FOR ENFORCING THE REQUIREMENT IS THE CAR EMMIGRATION/IMMIGRATION SERVICE (EIS) LOCATED ON RUE DU DOCTEUR CUREAU. THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE REQUIREMENT AS THEY APPLY TO AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. TRAVELERS INTENDING TO ENTER THE CAR SHOULD CONTACT A CAR EMBASSY OVERSEAS AND REQUEST A VISA. WHERE THEY DO NOT HAVE A MISSION THE CAR WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE FRENCH. WHAT AMOUNTS TO AN "ENTRY VISA" WILL BE ISSUED. THE VISA WILL USUALLY BE VALID FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AND GOOD FOR ONE ENTRY. UPON ENTERING THE CAR, THE TRAVELER MUST REGULARIZE HIS STATUS WITH THE EIS IN BANGUI BY OBTAINING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

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VISAS: A) TRANSIT: B) TOURIST: C) INDEFINITE OR

RESIDENT VISA. ALSO AVAILABLE ARE EXIT/REENTRY VISAS.

A) TRANSIT VISAS: WILL BE ISSUED GRATIS FOR PERSONS REMAINING IN THE CAR LESS THAN 48 HOURS. THEY ARE ISSUED AT THE M'POKO AIRPORT OR EIS HEADQUARTERS IN BANGUI. SHOULD THE HOLDER OF A TRANSIT VISA REMAIN MORE THAN 48 HOURS HE MUST EITHER OBTAIN A TOURIST OR RESIDENT VISA. IF HE DOES NOT HE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE BANGUI. FALLING IN THIS VISA CATEGORY WOULD BE BUSINESSMEN RESTING OVERNIGHT IN BANGUI ENROUTE TO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES OR MISSIONARIES RESIDEING IN NORTHERN ZAIRE VISITING THE CAR FOR A DAY OR SO TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES.

B) TOURIST (VISITORS) VISAS: ARE ISSUED BY EIS FOR A FEE (IN THE FORM OF A FISCAL STAMP PURCHASED AT THE BUREAU DE DOMAINE BY THE TRAVELER) OF 2,000 CFA (\$1.00 - 233 OR \$8.58) AND ARE VALID FOR 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE CAR. THEY CAN BE RENEWED BY PAYING THE 2,000 CFA FEE FOR EACH PERIOD OF 10 DAYS. WOULD TRAVELERS, HUNTERS, TDY BUSINESSMEN, VISITING MISSIONARIES OR ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN IN THE CAR TEMPORARILY BUT FOR MORE THAN 48 HOURS SHOULD HAVE A TOURIST VISA. AS THIS VISA IS ISSUED ONLY BY EIS BANGUI, ALL TRAVELERS IN THIS CATEGORY MUST PASS THROUGH BANGUI. OVERLAND ENTRY IS PERMITTED ON AN ENTRY VISA AND MAY BE CONVERTED TO A "TOURIST" VISA IN BANGUI.

C) INDEFINITE OR RESIDENT VISA: THIS VISA IS ISSUED BY EIS IN BANGUI AND IS VALID FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. A FEE OF 3,000 CFA IS CHARGED. AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND MISSIONARIES RESIDING IN THE CAR MUST OBTAIN THIS VISA. THE BEARER OF THIS VISA WILL ALSO BE ISSUED AN "IDENTITY CARD FOR FOREIGNERS" REPLACING THE "CARTE DE SEJOUR" PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO AMERICANS. WHEN THE HOLDER OF A RESIDENT VISA WISHES TO LEAVE THE CAR TEMPORARILY HE MUST OBTAIN AN EXIT/REENTRY VISA FROM EIS. THIS VISA IS VALID INDEFINITELY AND GOOD FOR ONE APPLICATION: IT COSTS 1,500 CFA. RESIDENTS INTENDING TO DO A GOOD DEAL OF TRAVELING IN AND OUT OF THE CAR MAY OBTAIN A MULTIPLE ENTRY RESIDENT VISA. IT COSTS 4,500 CFA BUT IS VALID FOR ONLY ONE YEAR.

2) AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN THE CAR PRIOR TO THE
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PROMULGATION OF THE NEW LAW ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A RESIDENCE VISA RETROACTIVELY. HOWEVER THEY MUST PRESENT THEMSELVES (OR BE REPRESENTED BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN DESIGNATED TO ACT IN THEIR BEHALF) TO THE EIS IN BANGUI AND PROVIDE PARTICULARS REGARDING THEIR STAY IN THE CAR. SHOULD THESE PERSONS LEAVE THE CAR TEMPORARILY THEY MUST OBTAIN A EXIT/REENTRY VISA.QUAINTON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL AFRICAN POSTS.

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